

COUNTRY

TOPIC

General Military Information

EVALUATION

see below

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT

1 to 20 April 1953

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 4 May 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES

2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

Paragraph 2

was previously reported

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25X1C

1. At about 12:15 p.m. on 20 April 1953, a train carrying 12 x 160-mm mortars, about 25 trucks and 2 field kitchens of the [redacted]

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including 11 boxcars, was seen passing through Biederitz.¹

2. On 20 April, the Reiter Kaserne in Beeskow was vacant, except for a small rear detail of soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia.²

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3. During the morning of 17 and 18 April, 30 officers, 240 EM, 3 JS-tanks [redacted] 1 T-34 tank, 1 SP gun, 1 AT gun, 1 heavy machine gun on a gun carriage, and 3 trucks were seen at a loading practice on the loading ramp in Altruppin.³

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4. At 4 p.m. on 1 April, a train consisting of 4 boxcars and 26 flatcars with sideracks carrying 3 JS-3 tanks, a salvage tank, 1 SU-122 gun, 3 trucks, [redacted] sections of iron girders, which [redacted] were bridge sections; and 3 heavy iron cranes, disassembled in large sections, was seen passing the Letschin railroad station, proceeding toward Kuestrin.

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5. From 10 to 16 April, no change in the occupation of the Soviet-occupied section of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp was discernible. A kitchen and a small dining room in building No 129 were still being used by the Soviets. A wooden fence, about 3 meters high, was being erected west of building No 129, in a right angle with the Lagerstrasse (camp street). A similar wooden fence was constructed toward north from Bernauer Allee along building No 134, west of the promenade and north of Lagerstrasse, including building No 144 and excluding buildings No 137 and 139.

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6. In early April, a local resident of Cranienburg stated that Units Stepanishen, Picheniyen and Markin still occupied the Soviet section of the camp. One Lieutenant Okhoti (phonetical spelling) (fnu) was Kech officer and, at the same time, allegedly connected with Unit Valenkov.⁵ According to rumors, Army Clothing Depot II in Bernau will be reconditioned for the occupation powers in 1953. The construction of a motor vehicle repair shop in Army Clothing Depot I, Bernau, for Lieutenant Colonel Abrama (fnu), at a cost of 54,000,000 eastmarks was approved. The shipping of material to the construction site has already started.⁶

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1. Comment. Probably a shipment of the 65th Fort Frig (US), which started moving to Altengrabow on 19 April.

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2. Comment. a shipment of 40 mortars passing through Frankfurt/Oder toward Lieberose on 15 April. The mortars observed presumably belonged to the 468th Gds Mort Regt of the 7th Gds Mecz Div, which moved to the Lieberose training area. The quarters of the regiment in Beeskow, therefore, were vacant.

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3. Comment. The loading practice involved units of the 12th Gds Tank Div.

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4. Comment. Presumably trucks of the 6th Gds Mecz Div.

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5. Comment. The information indicates that the west section of the SS Kaserne on 16 April was still occupied by the units of the 25th Tank Div mentioned in the reference report. Lieutenant Okhoti (fnu) is mentioned for the first time. The other officers, except for the administrative officer Lieutenant Colonel Stepanishen (fnu), belong to the unidentified tank training battalion and the unidentified motor transport battalion of the division. For numbers of the buildings, see sketch

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6. Comment. Army Clothing Depot I in Bernau is occupied by the unidentified AT artillery brigade of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army, and Clothing Depot II is occupied by elements of the Main Clothing Depot of the GDFG.

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